

**MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Attending: Jana McGee, Jeff Jewel, Rebecca Swanson, Joe Kielar, Molly O'Donnell, Gwen White, Teddie Mower, Andrea Jobe

Regrets: Bill Brown

Staff: Jacqui Bauer, Erik Woodworth (intern)

Public comment: None

Announcements

Molly announced that the ICEY (Interfaith Coalition of Environmentalist Youth) group will be doing a weatherization outreach project this coming Sunday.

Andrea visited another rooftop garden in Atlanta and shared reflections and photos.

Andrea also announced that she will be resigning from the commission. We will need a new Environmental Commission liaison.

Jacqui introduced new intern Erik Woodworth, who will be working with her this summer on the STAR Communities effort, RentRocket, and the Energy Challenge.

Approval of Minutes: The April minutes will be approved next month.

Presentation by Janice Lilly on Healthy Food for All

Affiliated with the Center for Sustainable Living, and focused on making local food more available to low-income households.

The group approaches farmers at the end of the Farmers Market to purchase produce at half-price to donate to the Rise and other local programs that assist low-income residents. They have received support from a number of local organizations and individuals.

The group contributes to sustainability by ensuring that local farmers will not lose money on the produce that they bring to market, as well as ensuring that low-income households have access to fresh produce throughout the year and helping to sustain the local economy.

Dave asked about storage of produce. Janice mentioned that this hasn't been a barrier in the past.

Donations can be made through the Center for Sustainable Living (designate the donation to Healthy Food for All) or via the Winter Farmers Market webpage.

Sustainability Coordinator Report

Energy Challenge update

Jacqui gave a brief update on the Energy Challenge. The Residential Committee agreed to have team consultations following household energy assessments to help identify solutions to problems volunteers are not able to solve.

In addition, the Vectren-funded EnergyMobile is still in process. The wrap will be installed soon.

H2H update

IU's 14 dorms were completed in a record 2 days, largely due to the huge crew of 90 volunteers supplied by Duke Energy. Pickups will continue over the summer, and the sale will be held on August 22. An ongoing challenge of this waste-reduction program is getting students and residents to think more about both consumption and disposal.

Gwen noted that she just attended a circular economy conference that talked about exactly this concept.

Teddie said that there will be a ShareFest at the end of June. The "Hour" timebank will also kick off late June to help build on the sharing economy concept. She is working with Ryan Conway to implement this idea locally. This allows people to exchange skills and materials.

Molly noted that local regulations affecting Air B & B and other shared resources might be something for BCOS to study in more detail.

Committee reports:

ECPC: no updates

EC: last month's presenter was from Monroe County Identify & Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS). This group is available to help residents assess what invasives are on their property.

An individual has come to EC a number of times with concerns about PCBs locally. One member of the EC suggested that the community bring back a company that visited previously to measure PCB exposure in local residents. The EPA will release reports only every five years.

Bring Your Bag Bloomington: Andrea wrote a draft letter that BCOS might sign in support of the ordinance. Rebecca noted that the committee is gathering information on the best direction to go. Regardless of the outcome of the actual ordinance, the committee is planning to reach out to the community to educate and advocate on the topic.

The group has established an education/outreach subcommittee that is working on developing more materials.

New Business:

No new business.